



**Silk Road Theatre Project's  
Al Qasida Staged Reading Series  
&  
The Consulate General of Japan at Chicago  
proudly present**

**THE GEMPEI WAR:  
A Cycle of Noh Plays**

**Adapted for the modern stage by Kyle Gorden  
Directed by Julieanne Ehre**

**The staged reading will be immediately followed by  
a discussion with adaptor Kyle Gorden.**

**Tuesday, June 15, 2004  
at the Japan Information Center**

**Artistic Director, Jamil Khoury ❖ Executive Director, Malik Gillani  
[www.srtp.org](http://www.srtp.org) ❖ 312-236-6881**

## SPECIAL THANKS

Silk Road Theatre Project extends a heartfelt thanks to our gracious hosts, **The Consulate General of Japan at Chicago** and the **Japan Information Center**, and in particular, **Chip Meyer** and **Mariko Sasaki**.



*Silk Road Theatre Project wishes Kyle Gorden the absolute best of luck as he embarks upon the fellowship program at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Vilar Institute for Arts Management next year. Someday we will all be saying "we knew him when..." Go for it, Kyle!*



**Kyle Gorden (Adaptor)** holds a degree in East Asian Languages and Civilizations with Special Honors from the University of Chicago, and attended Stanford University's Kyoto Center for Japanese Studies, where he focused on Noh theater and received an independent study grant from the Japan Foundation. He previously worked with Silk Road Theatre Project as dramaturg for the production of *Tea* and the staged reading of *36 Views*. Kyle is Assistant Director of the University of Chicago Alumni Association, as well as Founder and Chair of the Hyde Park – University of Chicago Arts Fest, a multidisciplinary annual event encompassing over 30 area arts institutions. He previously served in a variety of administrative roles at Court Theatre and Theater on the Lake, and as Web site designer for the Chicago Chamber Choir. Next year Kyle will participate in the fellowship program at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Vilar Institute for Arts Management.

**Julianne Ehre (Director)** is the Artistic Director of greasy joan & company where she most recently directed Henrik Ibsen's *The Lady From the Sea*. She also directed *Dreams of Desire: Classic Short Stories* and *Marisol* by Jose Rivera for the company. She has directed for Victory Gardens, Curious Theatre Branch, Chicago Dramatists Workshop, Strawdog Theatre, the Rhinoceros Theatre Festival, among others and directed and produced Arthur Kopit's *Wings*. Upcoming projects include directing *Antigone* for greasy joan at the Loop Theatre this fall. Ehre holds an M.F.A. in Directing from Northwestern University. She is grateful for this opportunity to work with Silk Road Theatre Project.

# CASTS

## ❖ Tomoe ❖

Priest 1.....Vincent Mahler  
Priest 2.....Marc Rita  
Priest 3.....Gordon Chow  
Maiden 1.....Michelle Williams  
Maiden 2.....Ambra Anie  
Maiden 3.....Soo Jin Park  
Monk.....James Foster  
Shrine Vistor/Tomoe.....Mary Ann de la Cruz  
Stage Directions.....Jameela Aghili

## ❖ Atsumori ❖

Rensei.....Marc Rita  
Kojiro Naoie/Mower 1.....Jameela Aghili  
Mowers 2.....Soo Jin Park  
Mower 3.....Ambra Anie  
Stage Directions.....Various Actors

## ❖ Ataka ❖

Ise No Saburo.....Gordon Chow  
Yoshitsune.....Mary Ann de la Cruz  
Benkei.....Michelle Williams  
Official.....Vincent Mahler  
Guard.....Marc Rita  
Kataoka.....Soo Jin Park  
Jiro.....James Foster  
Mashio.....Ambra Anie  
Hitachibo.....Jameela Aghili  
Stage Directions.....Various Actors

**Silk Road Theatre Project** was created to showcase playwrights of Asian, Middle Eastern, and Mediterranean backgrounds, whose works address themes relevant to the peoples of the Silk Road and their Diaspora communities. Maintaining that theatre should entertain as well as educate and promote critical thinking, SRTP is committed to theatre that elevates human consciousness, expands representation, and challenges prevailing stereotypes. In giving voice to cultures and experiences long absent on the American stage, we aim to integrate those voices within the cannon of American theatre.

**Al Qasida Staged Reading Series.** In Arabic, al-qasida means “the ode.” Al Qasida Staged Reading Series is Chicagoland’s first and only staged reading series dedicated to showcasing Silk Road playwrights from the U.S. and around the world. In the tradition of the great epic poems and oral narratives that defined cultural values in the lands of the ancient Silk Road, Al Qasida Staged Reading Series promises to illuminate for Chicago audiences the contemporary treasures of a part of the world that is vast and diverse, and yet sorely misunderstood.

**Jamil Khoury**, Artistic Director, is co-founder of Silk Road Theatre Project. In the company’s two years of existence, Khoury has overseen the world premiere of his play *Precious Stones* in 2003 and the Midwest premiere of Velina Hasu Houston’s play *Tea* in 2004. He also created and developed the Al Qasida Staged Reading Series, hosting three of the nation’s leading Asian American playwrights in 2003-2004: Chay Yew for *A Language of Their Own*, Velina Has Houston for *Tea*, and Naomi Iizuka for *36 Views*. At present, he is marketing and managing the national college tour of *Precious Stones*, and is thrilled to be taking the play to Istanbul, Turkey in August 2004, to be performed as part of the International Institute of Peace Educator’s annual conference. Khoury wishes to thank his life partner Malik for his continued love, encouragement, and support.

**Malik Gillani**, Executive Director, is co-founder of Silk Road Theatre Project, a capacity to which he brings extensive experience in management, development, and fundraising. Gillani served as Managing Producer and Director of Marketing for the productions of *Precious Stones* and *Tea*. He is thrilled to be promoting both the rich cultural legacy of the Silk Road and greater visibility for Silk Road artists. When not focused on theatre, Gillani is the Senior Account Manager for the Falkor Group, a technology service firm. Gillani wishes to thank his life partner Jamil for opening up such an exciting new world to him.

**Help Silk Road Theatre Project take its Award Winning Play  
PRECIOUS STONES  
to Istanbul, Turkey by making a tax-deductible contribution.  
Go on-line to: [www.srtp.org/donate.html](http://www.srtp.org/donate.html)**